



Flexibility Equals Success

Jean Villanueva, Esther Mellanie Oviedo

University of Affiliation: University of Hawaii - West Oahu



Abstract

The purpose of this study is to pay closer attention to learning instruction and how educators pass on their knowledge to their students. Undoubtedly, sometimes educators teach students based on their preferred teaching methods without accommodating the needs of the students and their learning styles. Which consequently sets the students up for failure because they are all not getting the necessary support they need in order to grow and prosper. Which is why educators need to pay more attention to things they do unconsciously because sometimes what is standing between the students and their success are the teachers.

Introduction & Research Question

A learning style is identified as a way of learning. Everyone has a preferred learning style and that is the way that you as an individual learn best. There are three common types of learning styles that are connected to education and that is kinesthetic, visual, and auditory. Some students learn best through one specific learning style while other students learn best through a combination of the learning styles. Because of this, it is unrealistic to reach every student in the classroom through one type of instruction. For this reason, it is the educators job to be flexible with instruction in order to reach every students learning needs in order to set them up for success.

Research Question: Why is it important for educators to incorporate the three different types of learning styles in the classroom?

If educators mixed up their type of instruction and incorporated the three different types of learning styles then educators will be able to reach students learning needs more effectively because educators will not be able to reach all his or her students without being flexible with his or her instruction.

Research Focus

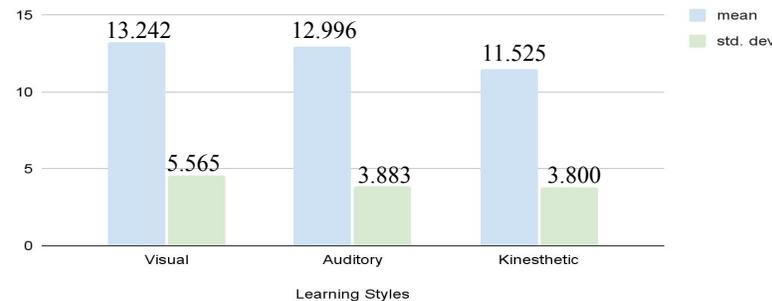
The research project focused on the correlation between the different types of learning styles and student's mathematical performance in 6th grade.

The study was conducted by using stratified sampling which randomly selects a total of 1225 grade 6 students to enhance precision. The data collected includes the following response scales; GE= Great Extent, SE= Some Extent, LE= Little Extent, NA=Not at All. There were a total of 231 visual learners, 836 auditory learners, and 158 kinesthetic learners.

Results

Listed below is a graph provided from "Learning Styles as Correlates of Grade 6 Learners Mathematics Performance in Buffalo City Municipality in South Africa" by authors Adu, K. Pylman, N. and Adu, E. The data in the graph express that among the random sampling of the 1,225 students, the visual learning style had the best execution of performance. Not to mention the auditory learning style following closely after then lastly kinesthetic learning in last place. What is so significant from these results? The results reveal that in the population of these 6th grade students, nearly 1/3 of the students fall into each type of learning styles methods.

Different learning Styles Influence on 6th Grade's Mathematical Performance



Discussion

Based on the results from the graph it is easy to assume that it is difficult to reach 100% of the students through one type of instructional method. The relationship between how the instruction is conveyed and how the students learn is an essential idea that needs to be taken into consideration by all educators. To illustrate, teaching students math through lecture will only be effective for auditory learners. Which according to the data is more than half of the 1,225 population, thus only 836 students of the sample population will really grasps the content of the lesson. Leaving the rest of the students either struggling, completely lost, or unengaged. To summarize, it is unrealistic to meet the learning and individual needs of each student through one specific learning instruction, therefore educators must be flexible during instructions in order to reach more students.

Conclusions

- Each student learns differently.
- Integrating the different types of learning styles is an essential part in student learning.
- Educators need to be flexible in student instruction so it will be easier to reach more students and their individual needs.
- The relationship between classroom instruction and student learning needs to be addressed more and not overlooked.
- Learners' preferred learning styles will improve and enhance their understanding of what is being taught.

References

1. Learning styles. Learning Styles | Math Tutoring Center | Eastern Kentucky University. (n.d.). <https://mathutor.eku.edu/learning-styles>.
2. Hodges, Helené L. B. " Learning Styles: Rx for Mathophobia". *The Arithmetic Teacher* AT 30.7 (1983): 17-20. < <https://doi.org/10.5951/AT.30.7.0017>>. Web. 27 Sep. 2021.
3. Adu, Kemi O., et al. "Learning Styles as Correlates of Grade 6 Learner's Mathematics Performance in Buffalo City Municipality in South Africa." *E-BANGI Journal*, vol. 17, no. 5, June 2020, pp. 119-131. EBSCOhost, <http://libproxy.westohu.hawaii.edu/login?url=https://search.ebscohost.com/login.as.px?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=144352031&site=ehost-live&scope=site>



Contact

Jean Villanueva and Esther Mellanie Oviedo University of Hawaii - West Oahu

Email: jean4@hawaii.edu & eoviedo@hawaii.edu